

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: NINTH INTER-AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY CONGRESS

1. JUNE 20-24, THE NINTH INTER-AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY CONGRESS (AND SIXTH CONGRESS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY) WAS HELD IN CARACAS. ORGANIZED JOINTLY BY THE INTER-AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY AND THE VENEZUELAN PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY, THE CONGRESS WAS INAUGURATED BY GOV PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND PRESIDED BY RECTOR ERNESTO MAYZ VALLENILLA OF SIMON BOLIVAR UNIVERSITY.

2. THE CONGRESS HAD, AS ITS PLANNING COMMITTEE, REPRESENTATION FROM A HALF-DOZEN NATIONAL AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES AND THUS WAS WELL-ATTENDED BY THE LOCAL ACADEMIC COMMUNITY. TWENTY-EIGHT WESTERN HEMISPHERE PHILOSOPHERS (INCLUDING TWO GERMANS) ATTENDED AS SPECIAL INVITEES AND FORTY-EIGHT ATTENDED AS FULL PARTICIPANTS. THE U.S. PARTICIPATION WAS CONSIDERABLE WITH FOUR SPECIAL INVITEES AND ELEVEN FULL PARTICIPANTS. PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN CONTINUOUS AND EXTENSIVE.

3. THE CONGRESS WAS TO TREAT TWO BASIC THEMES: 1) THE LATIN AMERICAN REALITY AS A PROBLEM FOR PHILOSOPHICAL THINKING, AND 2) PRESENT TRENDS OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE AMERICAN CONTINENT. THREE
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PLENARY SESSIONS WERE HELD TO COVER 1) THE TEACHING OF PHILOSOPHY IN LATIN AMERICA 2) HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF PHILOSOPHICAL IDEAS IN LATIN AMERICA, AND 3) POSSIBILITIES AND LIMITS OF A LATIN AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY. IN REALITY, HOWEVER, THE CONGRESS DEVIATED CONSIDERABLY FROM THOSE THEMES.

4. DURING THE CONGRESS ATTENTION WAS PAID INITIALLY TO LATIN

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL INTEGRATION, A CALL TO UNITY MADE IN THE OPENING SPEECH GIVEN BY PRESIDENT PEREZ. THAT CALL, HOWEVER, WAS CHALLENGED THEREAFTER BY THOSE PARTICIPANTS WHO DECLARED THAT NO LATIN AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY EXISTED AND THAT LATIN AMERICA STILL HAS NOT LEARNED THE PHILOSOPHICAL LESSONS OF EUROPE.

5. MOST NOTEWORTHY, AND INDICATIVE OF THE SENTIMENT OF PARTICIPANTS, WAS THE DECLARATION ISSUED AT THE CONGRESS' CLOSING SESSION WHICH
1) CONDEMNED THE FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS, RIGHTS IMPERILED IN THE MAJORITY OF LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS 2) CONDEMNED THE IDEOLOGICAL REPRESION IN LATIN AMERICA WHICH IMPEDES AND PERSECUTES THE FREEDOM OF INTELLECTUALS, AND 3) DEMANDED THAT CERTAIN REGIMES RELEASE INFORMATION REGARDING MISSING PERSONS, SPECIFICALLY SOME TWELVE STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS OF PHILOSOPHY BEING HELD IN PRISONS IN URUGUAY AND CHILE.

6. THE CONGRESS ALSO CLOSED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LATIN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR MARXIST STUDIES, WHICH WILL EDIT A MAGAZINE (PRAXIS) THREE TIMES A YEAR.

KEY

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